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Special Assistant to the Secretary of State
Washington

EX-4-3735
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July 24, 1953

Dear Allen:

As we draw closer to a truce in Korea, we face a new and difficult set of problems. On the basis of discussions with departmental policy officers, I believe that the most useful assistance we can give them in these problems would be a special estimate of the capabilities and probable courses of action of the Republic of Korea with respect to an armistice.

I have discussed this proposal with Sherman Kent and we have agreed that it is of sufficient importance to go before the IAC. At his suggestion, I am enclosing a draft terms of reference for the proposed estimate which you may wish to send to the other IAC members before our next meeting. In these terms of reference, I have attempted to show that this is a problem that can be dealt with in terms of intelligence without intruding on the field of operations.

The timing of the proposed special estimate should of course be discussed by the IAC. My tentative view is that terms of reference should be agreed upon as rapidly as possible; but that contributions should not be due until about a month later. The interval would be used for an intensive collection effort to improve the raw intelligence that would go into the estimate. Submission of the estimate to the IAC might be set for late September or early October.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

W. Park Armstrong, Jr.

Enclosure

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

The Honorable

Allen W. Dulles,

Director of Central Intelligence

Washington

Orig - DCI STATINTL

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1- [redacted] (review + comments)

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